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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of: )  
)  
Takashi Ejiri )  
)  
Title: A LOCKING DEVICE OF AN )  
AIR-OPERATED NORMALLY-CLOSED )  
VALVE FOR A GAS CYLINDER )  
)  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned )  
)  
Filed On: Simultaneously herewith ) (Our Docket No: 4415-21)

Hartford, Connecticut – December 2, 2003

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows with reference to the U.S. Application as filed: